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SCREENING OF THE WHOLE EGG WHITE PROTEINS IN VARIABLE TYPES OF BIRDS

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Running title: SDS-PAGE of egg-white proteins

ABSTRACT

The comparative heterogeneity of the detailed, in-parallel protein composition data analysis for wide varieties of birds' egg white samples has not yet been fully defined. The main object of this research is to evaluate the extent of variability among more than 40 types of birds' egg white. To improve the perception of these biological fluids, the main phenotypes variations of egg white were evaluated using the discontinuous denaturing polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE), Gradient SDS-PAGE, Native-PAGE, cellulose acetate electrophoresis, and reverse phase high-performance liquid chromatography (RP-HPLC). Though the latest techniques didn't show significant variability in terms of hydrophobicity, several electrophoretic differences of egg-white proteins were observed. As well, several unknown proteins in many egg white samples of different bird species were identified through electrophoretic experiments. So, it might be possible, as it shown in many cases of egg white samples, to provide a characterized assessment among birds only by using the available gel electrophoresis techniques. Also, this study provides a rapid snapshot for the initial identification of several unknown egg white protein components. According to our knowledge, this study constitutes the first large-scale comparative proteomics investigation performed among these largely variable types of egg white samples.

Keywords: Egg white; Gradient-PAGE, HPLC, Native-PAGE, SDS-PAGE

INTRODUCTION

One of the main scientific compasses in many eggs related projects is to use egg white components as a cornerstone in several fields of food and drug industry (Kovacs-Nolan *et al.*, 2005, Abu-Ghoush *et al.*, 2008, Omana *et al.*, 2010). Usually, egg white proteins in birds are rich in essential amino acids, and possess in chickens a valuable nutritional food (Mine, 2008). It contains many individual protein components with high potential for several industrial applications, such as ovalbumin, ovotransferrin, ovomucoid, ovomucin, and lysozyme (Abeyrathne *et al.*, 2013). Several parameters that affect egg white were studied, such as heat (Akkouche *et al.*, 2012), salt (Kaewmanee *et al.*, 2011), pH (Bovskova and Mikova, 2011), and storage (Qiu *et al.*, 2012). More than forty different egg white proteins were isolated and identified (Sunwoo & Gujral, 2014). However, almost all the known egg white components were usually separated from chickens

(Awade, 1996, Raikos *et al.*, 2006, Guerin-Dubiard *et al.*, 2006; D'Ambrosio *et al.*, 2008; Mann, 2007; Mann and Mann, 2011). But chickens are not the only birds from which egg white are highly utilized in food and industry. Instead, other egg-white resources were also relied on in this regard, such as quails and ostriches, or even other related species, in several regions around the world. Therefore, the essential importance of chickens being as very abundant and cheap source of egg white proteins aren't satisfied to focus only on this bird without giving a significant highlight on other related species that have a remarkable impact in terms of food and industry. So, relying only on chickens' egg white as the only source for many food and industrial applications may not be sufficient to fulfill all the extended needs of the recent scientific requirements. Despite the magnitudes of the researches conducted in egg whites, there is still a lack of the complete comparative proteomic profile concerning the detailed protein chemical compositions of several egg white varieties. Although, several comparative egg white proteomics studies were performed on several poultry species (Desert *et al.*, 2001, Miguel *et al.*, 2005, Omana *et al.*, 2011, Qiu *et al.*, 2012, Wang *et al.*, 2012), a complete idea of the whole comparative data to construct a concrete basics on these differences is lacking. Thus, detailed information on the egg white of other species compared with chickens' egg white, weren't abundant enough to build a determined view on the nature and the extent of these differences. Thus, this focus should be broadened to include other bird species. However, it's not rational for the researchers to go further in the various applications of egg white varieties according to their differences without having identified the profile of these differences. Since it is well documented that egg white proteins are one of the best-known bird's proteins (Campell *et al.*, 2003), it should be focused on to start evaluating these differences. The profiles of egg white proteins, regarding as the most accessible protein sources, are potentially postulated to occupy valuable roles in protein phenotyping studies of birds. As long as such fluids contain many standardized proteins, many variabilities were possibly available in such a way they could potentially be used in the proteomics diagnosis to differentiate among the types of birds. Undoubtedly, knowing the differences of birds' egg white protein components and their physicochemical properties can enhance the potential applications of birds' egg white in the food industry (Nys and Sauveur, 2004), and therapeutic applications (Narat, 2003), and can also intensify our knowledge's of various biological processes (Wellman-Labadie *et al.*, 2008). No large-scale information regarding the main divergence in the whole egg white compositions among different species of bird has been reported. Despite the availability of the previously mentioned studies on the egg whites, the number of data that describe the variability of the egg whites among genera and species still very few in many types of birds. Therefore, the main aim of this study is to highlight the extent of differences among egg white for various birds species. This task can be done by performing a direct screening of the egg white protein to identify the potential molecular categories

of many birds by simple proteomic separation techniques. Hence, it's not the purpose of this investigation to solve the entire chemical composition of the egg white varieties. Rather, its purpose is to determine whether the protein heterogeneity evidence alone can support this suggested diagnostic approach. To our knowledge, this work constitutes a pilot large-scale study that simplifies in-parallel proteomic investigation as its include a direct comparison among more than forty different types of egg white proteins in only of dual gel formats.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Samples' Collection and Preparation

All samples were collected from different commercial stores and bird keepers from variable regions of middle Euphrates areas in Iraq (Table 1). During a period of about 120 days, 42 eggs from 42 commercially and locally available types of birds, genus or species, were collected, phenotypically classified, and stored in -20°C as whole eggs until processed. In the case of large-sized eggs, the egg white samples were collected from each egg by windowing the sterilized egg shell, while in the case of small-sized eggs, egg white proteins were obtained by cracking the sterilized egg's shell. Then, they were centrifuged for 10 min at 3461 xg at room temperature in a clinical centrifuge (EBA 20, Hettich, Germany). Any spoiled egg component was omitted from this study. All supernatants were kept under -20°C until processed.

Table 1 A list of the bird resources from which egg white samples were collected

No	species	No	species	No	species	No	species
1	<i>Columba livia domestica</i> (Domestic pigeon)	12	<i>Agapornis fischeri</i> (Fischer's fischeri)	23	<i>Coracias garrulous</i> (European roller)	34	<i>Agapornis roseicollis</i> (Rosy-faced lovebird)
2	<i>Columba livia</i> (Rock dove)	13	<i>Melopsittacus undulates</i> (Budgerigar)	24	<i>Gallus gallus domesticus</i> (Chicken)	35	<i>Alectoris Barbara</i> (Barbary partridge)
3	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i> (Red eye dove)	14	<i>Rollulus rouloul</i> (Green wood quail)	25	<i>Agapornis personatus</i> (Yellow-collared lovebird)	36	<i>Charadrius dubius</i> (Little ringed plover)
4	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i> (Red turtle dove)	15	<i>Ammoperdix griseogularis</i> (See-see Partridge)	26	<i>Agapornis nigrigenis</i> (Black-cheeked lovebird)	37	<i>Galerida crista</i> (Crested lark)
5	<i>Columba palambus</i> (Common wood pigeon)	16	<i>Ammoperdix griseogularis</i> (See-see partridge)	27	<i>Ammoperdix heyi</i> (Sand partridge)	38	<i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i> (Cockatiel)
6	<i>Streptopelia roseogrisea</i>	17	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	28	<i>Padda oryzivora</i> (Java sparrow)	39	<i>Passer domesticus</i> (House sparrow)

	(African collared dove)		(European goldfinch)				
7	<i>Streptopelia bitorquata</i> (Island collared dove)	18	<i>Falco peregrinus</i> (Peregrine falcon)	29	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i> (European turtle dove)	40	<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i> (Yellow-footed green pigeon)
8	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i> (Red turtle dove)	19	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i> (Common Shelduck)	30	<i>Agapornis fischeri</i> (Fischer's lovebird)	41	<i>Francolinus francolinus</i> (Black francolin)
9	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> (Eurasian collared dove)	20	<i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i> (Egyptian goose)	31	<i>Gallus domesticus</i> (Faverolles chicken)	42	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> (Common starling)
10	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i> (Domesticated turkey)	21	<i>Anser anser rubrirostris</i> (Iraqi goose)	32	<i>Coturnix Coturnix</i> (Common quail)		
11	<i>Coturnix adansonii</i> (African blue quail)	22	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> (Domestic duck)	33	<i>Glareola pratincola</i> (Collared pratincole)		

115

116 Separation of Egg White Samples by Discontinuous SDS-PAGE

117 The supernatants were diluted (1:1) in the denaturing-loading buffer (0.5M Tris—HCl, pH
118 6.8; 4% SDS; 20% glycerol; 10% β -mercaptoethanol and 5% bromophenol blue), and then heated
119 for 3 min at 95°C in a water bath (Memmert, Schwabach, Germany). Each sample was separated by
120 gel electrophoresis on 10% mini vertical gel format, gel size (W×L) cm: 10×10, and gel thickness: 1
121 mm (Model OmniPAGE, Cleave Scientific – UK), and midi vertical gel format, gel size (W×L) cm:
122 12×14.5, and gel thickness: 1 mm (Model JY-SCZ9, Junyi-Dongfang Electrophoresis Equipment –
123 China). The discontinuous Laemmli (SDS-PAGE) method was applied (Laemmli, 1970) with minor
124 modifications. For mini gel format, electrophoresis of egg white proteins was performed using 10%
125 separating gel buffer [10% of 30:0.8% acrylamide/bisacrylamide, 1.5M tris-Cl pH8.8, 0.4% (w/v)
126 SDS], and 6% stacking gel buffer [6% of 30:0.8% acrylamide/bisacrylamide, 1M tris-HCl pH6.8,
127 0.4% (w/v) SDS]. For midi gel format, the concentration of separating gel buffer was changed into
128 12%. From 9 μ g into 15 μ g of samples loaded were by mixing 1:1 V/V with sample denaturing-
129 loading buffer (0.5M Tris—HCl, pH 6.8; 4% SDS; 20% glycerol; 10% β -mercaptoethanol and 5%
130 bromophenol blue). Molecular weight prestained standards were also routinely loaded (Bioneer Cat
131 # D-2010). Loaded samples were electrophoresed in 1X of running buffer [25 mM Tris pH 8.3, 250
132 mM glycine, 0.1% (w/v) SDS] in a vertical electrophoresis tank at 120V and 30 mA for mini gel
133 formats, and 200 V and 85 mA for midi gel formats. Electrophoresis was performed at constant

134 parameters until the tracking dye reached the end of the gel. Gels were stained with Coomassie blue
135 (Candiano *et al.*, 2004).

136

137 **Separation of Egg White Samples by Gradient SDS-PAGE**

138 The supernatants were diluted (1:1) in the denaturing-loading buffer, and then heated at
139 95°C in a water bath for 3 min. Each sample was separated by gel electrophoresis in 4 – 10% the
140 midi vertical gel format. The gradient method of Domingo was applied (Domingo, 1990), with
141 some modifications. Briefly, two solutions were prepared in the casting of the 4 – 10% gradient gel
142 in midi format gels. Solution A (or heavy solution), which includes 10% acrylamide (2.7 ml
143 acrylamide solution, 3.28 ml D.W., 2 ml separating gel buffer, 1.2 g sucrose, 20 µl freshly prepared
144 ammonium persulfate, and 10 µl freshly added TEMED) was prepared. Solution B (or light
145 solution), which includes 4% acrylamide (1.06 ml acrylamide solution, 4.8 ml D.W., 2 ml
146 separating gel buffer, 20 µl freshly prepared ammonium persulfate, and 10 µl freshly added
147 TEMED) was prepared. The total volume of the light and heavy solution is 15 ml, which is
148 sufficient to prepare a gradient gel in a 50 ml capacity disposable syringe. Then, 5% stacking gel
149 [6% of 30:0.8% acrylamide/bisacrylamide, 1M tris-HCl pH6.8, 0.4% (w/v) SDS] was applied
150 above the gradient separating gel. From 9 µg into 15 µg of samples loaded were by mixing 1:1 V/V
151 with sample loading buffer. Molecular weight prestained standards were also routinely loaded
152 (Bioneer Cat # D-2010). Loaded samples were electrophoresed in 1X of running buffer in a vertical
153 electrophoresis tank at 180V and 85 mA, for midi gel formats. Electrophoresis was performed at
154 constant parameters until the tracking dye reached the end of the gel. Gels were stained with
155 Coomassie blue.

156

157 **Separation of Egg White Samples by Native-PAGE**

158 The same samples preparative procedure mentioned in SDS-PAGE were used. The
159 supernatants were diluted (1:1) in non-denaturing loading buffer (0.5M Tris—HCl, pH 6.8; 4%
160 SDS; 20% glycerol; and 5% bromophenol blue). Each sample was separated by gel electrophoresis
161 on 10% midi gel format. The discontinuous Native-PAGE method was applied (Arndt *et al.*, 2012).
162 Electrophoresis of egg white proteins was performed using 10% separating gel buffer [10% of
163 30:0.8% acrylamide/bis acrylamide, 1.5M tris-Cl pH8.8], and 6% stacking gel buffer [6% of
164 30:0.8% acrylamide/bisacrylamide, 1M tris-HCl pH6.8]. From 7 µg into 13 µg of samples loaded
165 were by mixing 1:1 V/V with sample loading buffer. Four molecular weight standard proteins were
166 also routinely loaded (14 kd of lysozyme, 31 kd of carbonic anhydrase, 45 kd of ovalbumin, 66 kd
167 of bovine serum albumin, 97 kd of phosphorylase B). Loaded samples were electrophoresed in 1X
168 of running buffer [25 mM Tris pH 8.3, 250 mM glycine] in a vertical electrophoresis tank at 120V

169 and 30 mA. Electrophoresis was performed at constant parameters until the tracking dye reached
170 the end of the gel. Gels were stained with Coomassie blue.

171

172 **Separation of Egg White Samples by Cellulose Acetate**

173 Cellulose acetate electrophoresis of egg white was performed according to Keren method
174 (Keren, 2003). CellasGEL 250 μ m (2.5 x 7 cm) strips were used in these experiments (Cleaver
175 Scientific, Warwickshire, UK). The strips were soaked with agitation for 30 min at room
176 temperature in barbital buffer (Tris Hippurate 0.05 M, pH 8.8, Barbital tris 0.05M). The strips were
177 briefly blotted and immediately spotted with 2 μ l of each egg white sample. Electrophoresis was
178 performed by CSL-CELLAS device (Cleaver scientific, Warwickshire – UK) at 200 volts for 35
179 min at room temperature in barbital buffer. A standard bovine serum albumin fraction V was used
180 as a size marker (BioLabs, London W1W 6DB, UK). Following electrophoresis, the strips were
181 then stained and fixed by immersion in a staining solution [1 g ponceau S, 37.5 g trichloro-acetic
182 acid, 37.5 g sulfosalicylic acid in 500 ml water (w/v)] for 10 min. Then, destaining was performed
183 by washing for several times with gentle agitation in a destaining solution (10 % ethanol, 5 %
184 glacial acetic acid). The strips were dried at room temperature and imaged by a digital camera
185 (Sony – China). The generated images were analyzed by CS analyzer software (ATTO, Yushima,
186 Bunkyo-ku, Japan).

187

188 **Separation of Egg White proteins by RP-HPLC**

189 RP-HPLC separations were performed according to the method of Miguel (Miguel *et al.*,
190 2005), with some modifications. The egg white proteins were separated by HPLC system equipped
191 with a UV-Visible detector (Knauer advanced scientific instruments, Berlin, Germany). System
192 control and Data acquisition were performed by Clarity chromatography station software
193 (DataApex, Prague, Czech Republic). The analysis was carried with a Discovery® BIO Wide Pore
194 C18 column, with 4.6 X 250 mm, 5 μ m (Supelco, Madrid, USA), at ambient temperature. Two
195 solvents were used in the mobile phase of these experiments. Solvent A was 0.1% (v/v)
196 trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) in HPLC-grade water, and solvent B was 0.1% (v/v) TFA in HPLC-grade
197 acetonitrile. Elution was performed at room temperature, with a flow rate of 0.8 ml/min and with a
198 linear gradient from 2 to 65% of solvent B for 60 min then to 75% of solvent B in 90 min.
199 Absorbance was monitored at 214 nm. Before the injection, samples were filtered through 0.45-mm
200 filters (Millipore Corporation, Bedford, MA, USA).

201

202

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

203 In the present study, the macromolecular components of egg whites were studied by directly
204 submitting egg white components into variable techniques for polyacrylamide gel-based and
205 cellulose acetate based electrophoresis, and RP-HPLC. Irrespective to all the accumulated data, a
206 direct comparison of the effect of genera and species of birds classification on the main components
207 of its egg white profile varieties was very few highlighted. Particularly, the whole egg white
208 proteins of chickens, quails, and ducks have been studied widely (Mann and Mann, 2011; Hu *et al.*,
209 2016; Miguel *et al.*, 2005). However, the manuscripts that described the variability of proteins
210 among the egg white from different species of birds were not performed on a large number to build
211 an initial screening data to identify the nature of these differences. In this study, several routinely
212 used electrophoretic techniques, such as denaturing, non-denaturing, and gradient PAGE, were
213 implemented to compare between the benefits and limitations of each one in the accurate
214 discrimination amongst the analyzed egg-white samples. In addition, several routinely used non-
215 electrophoretic experiments were performed to collectively monitor the differences of the whole
216 egg white profile. So, instead of using the commonly used DNA-based diagnostic tools in birds
217 (Pereira *et al.*, 2008), several attempts were carried out to use proteomics identifications
218 alternatively. Although the genomic diagnosis is highly accurate, the proteomic diagnosis
219 characterizes with a very high dynamic process since its directly correlated with the changeable
220 protein expression levels (Corthals *et al.*, 2000, Fey and Larsen, 2001). Therefore, this study
221 provides an assessment of egg white as a dynamic diagnostic marker using several proteomic
222 routine techniques. The utilization of low-cost and basic analysis techniques may broaden the
223 applications of this diagnosis around the world. SDS-PAGE followed by Coomassie blue detection
224 is one of the routinely available techniques that can be invested with low cost and straightforward
225 identification of the egg white proteins. Nevertheless, SDS-PAGE alone, however, is limited in
226 terms of its low ability to resolve proteins of similar molecular masses (Cassiday, 2007). Thus, it
227 should be aided with another electrophoretic technique to overcome its shortcomings in the detection
228 of several unknown protein bands. Therefore, in addition to the submitting egg white samples into
229 variable SDS-PAGE conditions, other techniques were applied, such as Native-PAGE, and
230 cellulose acetate. Because of low reproducibility that originated from batch to batch variability
231 (Magdeldin *et al.*, 2014), isoelectric focusing (IEF) wasn't used in this study. Also, the labor-
232 intensive 2D-PAGE wasn't included in this research as it cannot analyze total proteins
233 straightforwardly because the cellular content of egg white protein varieties was very high, and this
234 highly complicates the interpretation of the resolved proteins (Bunai and Yamane, 2005). On the
235 other hand, hydrophobic HPLC was applied to give a further fingerprint about the whole nature of
236 these samples with regard to proteins function and specificity.

237

SDS-PAGE

Several denaturing electrophoretic conditions in terms of varying gels and sample concentrations to show the most beneficial profile. Several other technical standardizations were made, such as maximizing samples numbers in each gel format to enhance the chances of the correct in-parallel reading, were made. They were optimized as much as possible to provide a direct and simultaneous comparison among a larger number of samples. The small mini gels formats weren't competent enough to provide an accurate in-parallel comparison of the egg white bands. Therefore, larger formats and greater wells numbers were included to load as many samples as possible in one gel format. Thus, the sizes of gels and the number of wells were approximately duplicated. Moreover, each individual concentration of separating gel could precisely describe a certain range of proteins and relatively neglect the other proteins of other molecular weights (Rath *et al.*, 2009). Therefore, two different concentrations of gel were used in each case. However, since polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis is very sensitive techniques to any tiny changes in protein profile, two variable concentrations of egg white proteins were applied (Fig. 1). However, relying on MW, many proteins were identified in the literature in many egg white samples (Awade, 1996, Cao, 2005, Sunwoo & Gujral, 2014).

Although the silver staining technique is very sensitive in comparison with Coomassie counterpart (Weiss *et al.*, 2009), it was omitted from the staining because of several limiting practical factors, such as the differences of development time may give non-real quantitative density of the proteins bands as several proteins were obscured because of the dark areas that emerged during development (Gromova and Celis, 2006). Also, since the very high sensitivity of silver nitrate stain several non-proteinaceous portions, and thus it was found that this procedure is further complicating the reading of the gel (data not shown). Some of the proteins bands were clearly identified by simple direct comparison with their standards, while other bands were not. This concomitant difficulty of gel reading interpretations could not be resolved without submitting the same samples into further conditions. This difficulty was not easy to be excluded from the research since it was found that several egg white proteins have very close MW (Desert *et al.*, 2001).

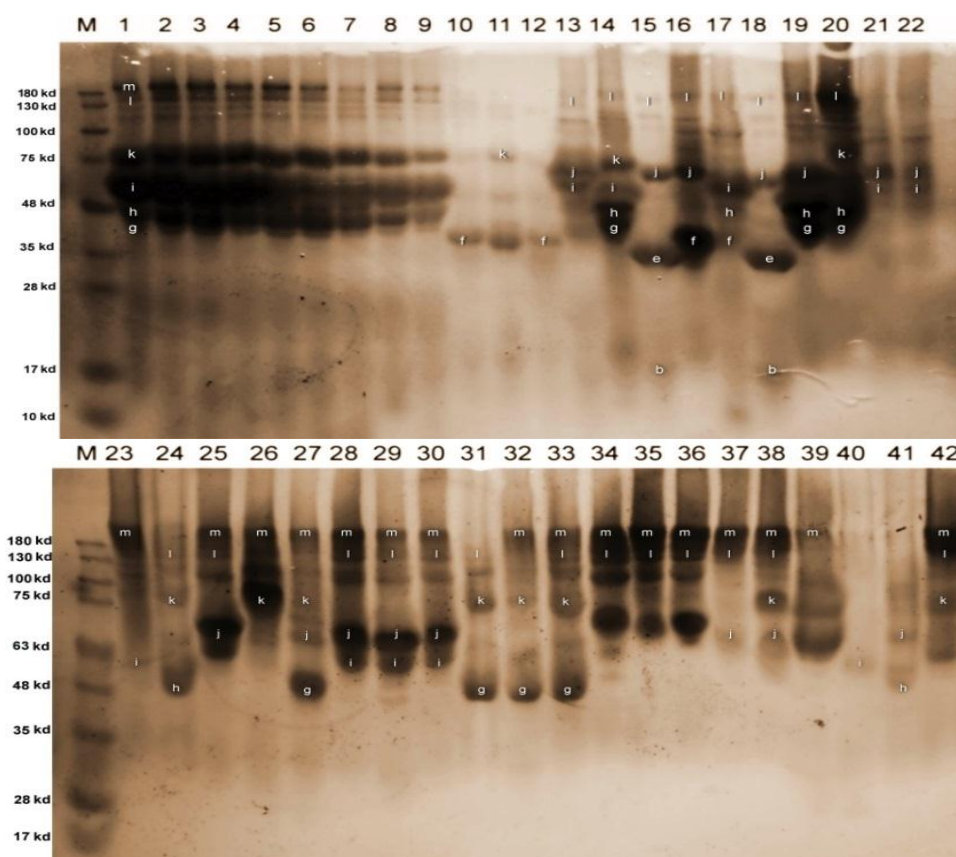
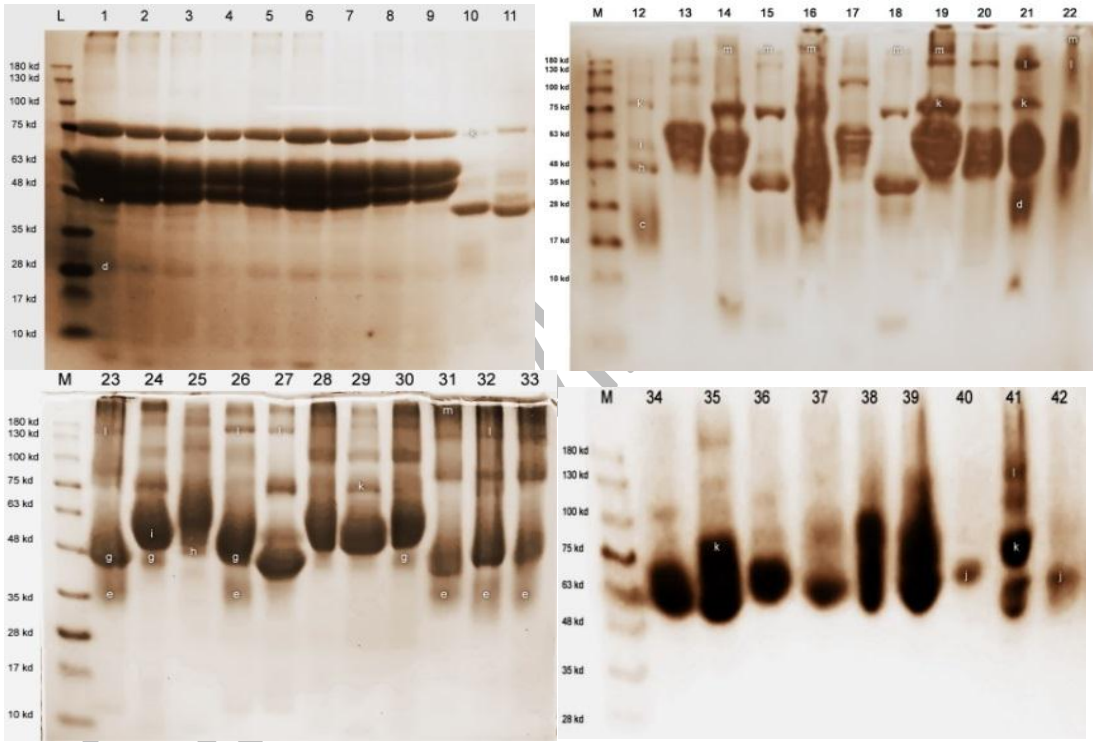


Figure 1 SDS-PAGE of egg white protein samples in 12% midi gel formats. Lane “M” refers to ladder marker. Lanes 1 – 42 refers to variable birds’ egg white protein samples. The letters “a” into “m” refers into the egg white resolved proteins

In addition to the limited range of proteins to be resolved on the gel, several extremely high and low molecular weight standards were not easily available for comparison (Hu *et al.*, 2016). Nonetheless, several simple electrophoretic migrations in this study were provided fruitful data on distinct resolving power on many egg white based only one-dimensional electrophoresis. Despite the high electrophoretic variability among the egg white samples, a particular pattern of distribution of egg white proteins was observed in some phenotypically related samples. This has obviously been noticed in the first nine samples, that are very closely related to each other in terms of classification. It was found that all the applied electrophoretic conditions of these samples have shown very close biological relationships. This, in turn, indicates the potential validity of these simple electrophoretic conditions to provide an initial diagnostic marker among these samples. On the other hand, interesting differences between the egg white patterns of a species from other distant families were found. However, not only the discrete differences among the isolated and identified egg white proteins identities are known, the differences of their concentrations are known too (Miguel *et al.*, 2005). In other words, this result refers to the potential eligibility of this simple one-dimensional SDS-PAGE to give us the extent of phenotypic divergence among birds only through this low cost and rapid tool for screening.

288 Despite performing several repetitions of the electrophoretic separation, the encountered
 289 practical difficulties of these egg white samples were inevitable in many instances, as it is relatively
 290 hard to standardize these variable viscosity specimens simultaneously in only one gel format. This
 291 is one of the factors that forced us to submit them into variable concentrations of SDS-PAGE and
 292 other electrophoretic environments. Another factor is related to this action is the vast gap of protein
 293 concentrations that exist among variable egg white protein composition. For instance, ovalbumin,
 294 ovotransferrin and ovomucoid represent about 77% of egg white content (Mine *et al.*, 1995), while
 295 other components never exceeded 1%, such as avidin and flavoprotein (Desert *et al.*, 2001). So, to
 296 improve detection of proteins in such samples, different amounts of proteins were loaded (Fig. 2).
 297 However, several protein bands were unambiguously identified in most of the samples.
 298



299
 300 Figure 2 SDS-PAGE of egg white protein samples in 10 % mini gel formats. Lane “M” refers to
 301 ladder marker. Lanes 1 – 42 refers to variable birds’ egg white protein samples. The letters
 302 “a” into “m” refer into the egg white resolved proteins that don’t resolve in Fig. 1.
 303

304 It deserves to note that the most abundant proteins in the studied samples are ovomucin
 305 proteins (MW 135 – 150 kD, and 220 – 270 kD) (Alleoni, 2006). While cystatin (MW 13 kD), as in
 306 Table 2, was not seen in all samples as it is a minor protein (Abeyrathne *et al.*, 2013).
 307
 308
 309

310 Table 2 The expected observed bands of the birds' egg white samples and their corresponding
 311 proteins according to variable PAGE conditions.\

Description of Known Proteins Bands													
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m
	Cystatin	Lysozyme	Ovoglycoprote	Ovomucoid,	OvoFlavoprotei	Thiamine binding	Ovalbumin	G ₂ Ovocalabulin	Ovoinhibitor	Avidin	Ovotransferin	Ovomucin	Ovomucin
MW (Kd)	13	14	24	28	32- 35	38	45	47	54	67- 68	76- 78	135- 150	220- 270
No. of samples													
1	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
2	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
3	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
4	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
5	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
6	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
7	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
8	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
9	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
10	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-
11	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-
12	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-
13	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	-
14	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+
15	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+
16	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	+
17	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
18	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	+
19	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+
20	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	-
21	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-
22	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	+
23	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	+
24	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	-
25	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	+
26	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+
27	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+
28	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	+
29	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+
30	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	+
31	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+
32	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	+
33	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+
34	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+
36	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	+
38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+

39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
41	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
42	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+

312

313 The main electrophoretic limitation for egg white separation was potentially attributed to the
314 ability of each gel concentration to separate certain MW range of proteins. This, in turn, led to the
315 fact that not all the identities of many other MW bands were not yet known (Table 3).

316

317 Table 3 The unknown observed bands of the birds' egg white samples according to variable PAGE
318 conditions

No. of samples	Description of Unknown Proteins Bands								
	MW (Kd)	4-6	63	83-85	90-95	100-105	115-117	120-123	125-129
1		+	+	-	-	-	+	-	+
2		+	+	-	-	-	+	-	+
3		+	+	-	-	-	+	-	+
4		+	+	-	-	-	+	-	+
5		+	+	-	-	-	+	-	+
6		+	+	-	-	-	+	-	+
7		+	+	-	-	-	+	-	+
8		+	+	-	-	-	+	-	+
9		+	+	-	-	-	+	-	+
10		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13		-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
14		-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
15		-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-
16		-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
17		-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
18		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19		-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-
20		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21		-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-
22		-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-
23		-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-
24		-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
25		-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
26		-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+
27		-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
28		-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
29		-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
30		-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
31		-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
32		-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
33		-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
34		-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
35		-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-

36	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
37	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
39	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
41	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
42	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-

This, however, was minimized by submitting egg white samples into variable PAGE conditions. Even though, these variable electrophoretic conditions were applied, they still have inevitable limitations in terms of lack of discrimination between the variable forms of proteins because of several reasons, such as glycosylation (Jay *et al.*, 1990), and phosphorylation (Li *et al.*, 2003), or into the splitting of some proteins into smaller subunits in the reducing conditions (Hoppe, 2010). Although these techniques identified many proteins according to their MW differences on the gel, it's not known whether these differences are attributed into the various posttranslational modifications that might be followed by some of these proteins in their three-dimensional structure, amino acids residues, in their backbones, or into discrete differences in their amino acid sequences. However, the majority of egg white samples are polymorphic in nature (Guearin-Dubiard *et al.*, 2006), and this adds more complication in their direct comparative visualization. Its deserve to note that the presence of certain physical barriers in the egg white samples stands against the electrophoretic separation of several experiments of the whole egg white samples. However, the electrophoretic experiments were repeated several times since it is not easy going sometimes to directly separate them because of the obviously noticed steric resistance that induced by the carbohydrate moieties (Desert *et al.*, 2001). This fact may be explained by the high viscosity originated from the presence of ovalbumin (Alleoni, 2006). Moreover, other difficulties are noticed when glycoproteins migrate unpredictably in SDS-electrophoresis because the sugar moieties do not bind SDS (Hames, 1998). Hence, if the purpose of this study is to perform an in-depth analysis of these egg white samples, 2-dimensional electrophoresis and MALTI-TOF analysis are prerequisites in this aspect (Hu *et al.*, 2016). Gradient gel electrophoresis can allow a greater range of separation if both large and small proteins MW need to be resolved simultaneously in only one gel format (Brunelle & Green, 2014). However, several proteins, such as ovalbumin (sample No. 13), ovoflavoprotein (samples No. 25, 28, 29, 30, 36, and 42), and ovomucoid (sample No. 42) were not resolved in discontinuous SDS-PAGE (Fig. 3).

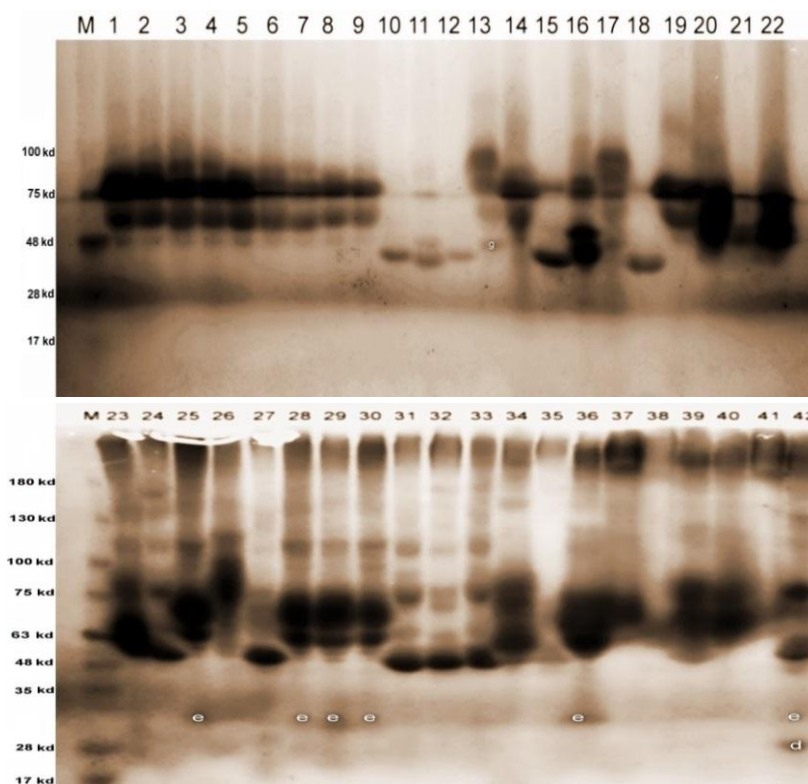


Figure 3 Gradient-PAGE of egg white protein samples. Lane “M” refers to ladder marker. Lanes 1 – 42 refers to variable birds’ egg white protein samples. The letters “a” into “m” refers into the egg white resolved proteins that don’t resolve in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2.

Native-PAGE

Although, SDS-PAGE is the most popular method due to their availability, reproducibility, and ease of use, the situation for complicated proteins differ in terms of having more reaction sites as its seen in these variable egg white samples, so, SDS-PAGE alone may not offer the best resolution required (Zheng *et al.*, 2007).

To achieve a comprehensive understanding of cellular proteins, the limitations of SDS-PAGE should be overcome by adding other methods such as Native-PAGE. Thus, it is interesting in this study to directly submit these variable egg white samples into Native PAGE as many proteins lose their natural conformations in the commonly used SDS-PAGE deliberately created denaturing conditions, and because of the reducing conditions, they tend to behave in a manner that does not resemble their habit in nature (Nowakowski *et al.*, 2014). Though native-PAGE is not commonly used in the usual diagnosis of many protein samples (Gallagher, 1999), it is mandatory to expose these variable samples into the non-denaturing conditions in order to take a snapshot on many unknown samples that are not easily identified in SDS-PAGE conditions. As it was expected, another unique pattern was observed. But, irrespective of this unique resolution, the same pattern of distributions of almost all samples was observed (Fig. 4). On the other hand, it is relatively difficult to calculate a lot of proteins MW according to their native separation. The paucity of any previous

Native-PAGE is the main reason for this difficulty. Rather, the monitoring of the natural behavior of many proteins that have relatively close MW, may increase the difficulty of this task. However, several proteins, such as ovoglycoprotein (sample No. 16), ovomucoid (samples No. 13 and 18), ovoflavoprotein (samples No. 10, 11, 12, 20, 21, and 22), thiamine binding protein (sample No. 15), ovalbumin (samples No. 10, 11, 12, 15, and 18), G3 ovoglobulin (sample No. 10), ovoinhibitor (samples No. 27, 32, and 53), and avidin (samples No. 10, 11, and 12) that were not resolved in SDS-PAGE were identified using Native-PAGE.

In this study, through both denaturing and nondenaturing electrophoretic techniques, multiple common bands were resolved in most of the samples, such as 32 – 35, 45, 47, 54, 67 – 68, 76 – 78, 135 – 150, and 220 – 270 KDa, which represent ovoflavoprotein, ovalbumin, G₃ ovoglobulin, ovoinhibitor, avidin, ovotransferrin, and ovomucin I and ovomucin II, respectively. Moreover, as it was mentioned previously, all these proteins were obviously identified. So that, in the electrophoretic portion of this study, several proteins were localized with certainty, which is the following: ovoglycoprotein (MW 24kd), ovomucoid (MW 28kd), ovoflavoprotein (MW 32-35kd), thiamine binding protein (MW 38kd), ovalbumin (MW 45kd), G₃ ovoglobulin (MW 47kd), ovoinhibitor (MW 54kd), avidin (MW 67-68kd), ovotransferrin (MW 76-78kd), and ovomucins (MW 135-150 and 220-270kd). However, many bands still interestingly unknown and remain to be recognized individually. On the other hand, in addition to the collectively high resolving power of these several one directional electrophoretic techniques in the in-parallel detection of many of these protein types, it might be possible for some of these techniques to give us a semi-quantitative indication of the intensity of each particular protein per lane. For instance, it was found in this study that the overall ovalbumin concentration occupied the most noticeable quantity of the separated proteins. This agrees with the literature, which constitutes 54% of the total proteins (Stadelman and Cotterill, 2001), while the overall concentration of ovomucoid bands occupied very low quantity of the resolved egg white proteins. However, ovomucoid is a highly glycosylated protein, so its actual MW is characterized by its changeability in electrophoresis (Kovacs-Nolan *et al.*, 2000). However, ovomucoid concentration does not exceed 11% of the total egg white proteins (Caubet and Wang, 2011). This, in turn, optimizes our view in many diagnostic aspects.

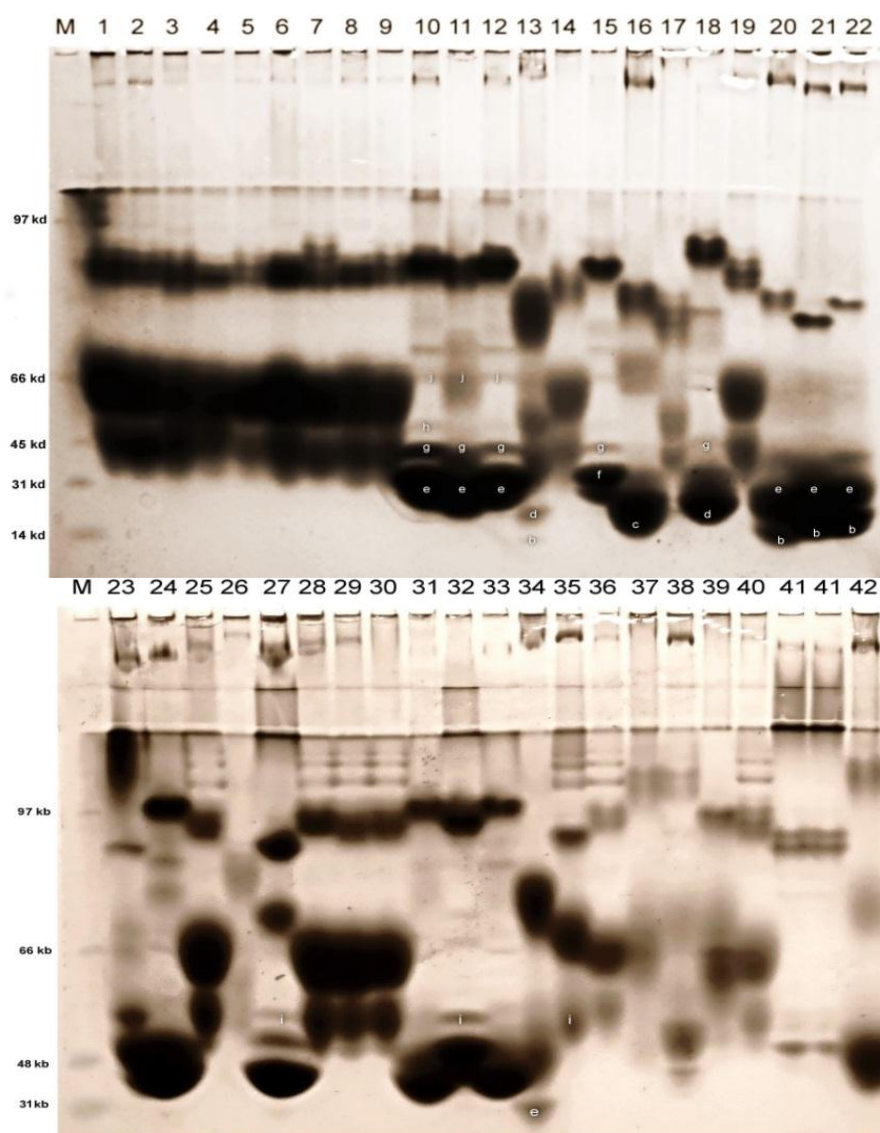


Figure 4 Native Polyacrylamide Gel (Native-PAGE) electrophoresis of high concentrations of egg white protein samples. Lane “M” refers to ladder marker. Lanes 23 – 42 refers to variable birds’ egg white protein samples. The letters “a” into “m” refers into the egg white resolved proteins that don’t resolve in Fig. 1, Fig. 2, Fig. 3.

Cellulose Acetate Electrophoresis

To further sustain our screening impression of the natural behavior of the egg white samples, the whole egg white were submitted to the cellulose acetate membranes in a non-biased sequential manner (Fig. 5). Despite the observed low resolution of cellulose acetate method, it provided us with interesting information about the charges of egg white proteins. Interestingly, six egg white samples were demonstrated one positively charged bands (sample No. 9, 11, 18, 24, 27, and 33). This naturally existing positively charged proteins or emulsifiers weren’t abundantly available in food in their natural biological fluids (Decker, 1998). In addition to its relatively low resolving power that observed from its reduced number of the observed band (Table 4), it is being

reasonable to say that cellulose acetate results weren't categorically correspondingly with the phenotypic classificational differences of the electrophoresed egg white samples.

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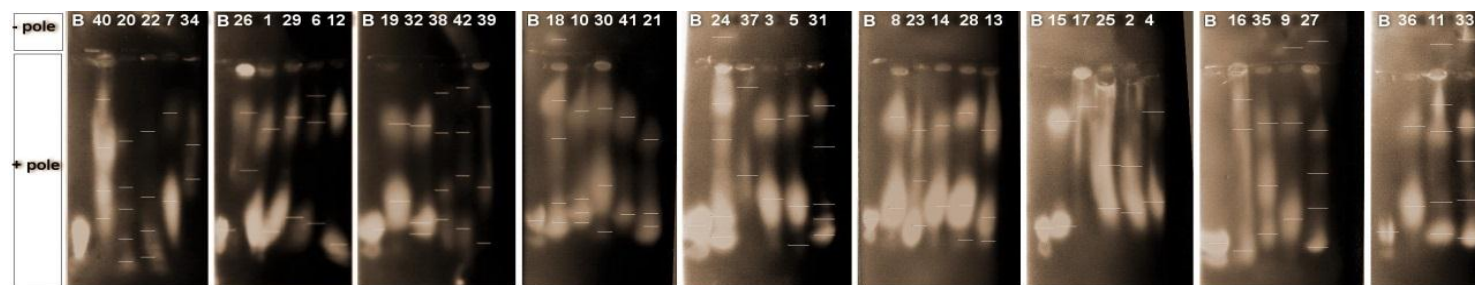


Figure 5 Cellulose acetate gel electrophoresis of egg white proteins samples. Lane “B” refers to bovine serum albumin fraction V marker. Lanes 1 – 42 refers to variable birds’ egg white protein samples. The color is inverted into black and white to get better resolution.

RP-HPLC

Although discontinuous and gradient gel electrophoresis systems have been described for egg white separation, the use of RP-HPLC may also be helpful with the intention of monitoring the resolving power, as well as assessing the degree of proteins specificity with regard to their functions. Relatively, similar patterns of the resolution were observed in almost all samples (Fig. 6). This potentially indicates a similar functional specificity that adopted from most of the egg whites proteins within the eggs’ environment. However, the typical high resolution of RP-HPLC is significantly reduced in resolving structurally similar components from a complex mixture (Mitulović, 2015). In such cases, a sufficient time is needed to separate the great number of peaks from each other. This has extended run time for these 42 samples in more than 60 hours. Therefore, the runtime was extended into 90 min. Other limitations were very known in these experiments. Such as, the HPLC could not usually be performed for more than one sample at a time.

Table 4 A sum up of the behavior of each type of egg white in cellulose acetate electrophoresis

No. of samples	Positive bands	The relative distance of the negative bands with respect to bovine albumin		
1	-	0.5 9	1.00	
2	-	0.7 2	0.93	
3	-	0.5 2	0.88	
4	-	0.7 4	0.88	
5	-	0.5 0	0.91	1.09
6	-	0.4	0.57	0.97

			6				
7	-		0.3	0.83			
			8				
8	-		0.5	0.95			
			4				
9	+		0.5	0.90			
			1				
10	-		0.5	0.91	0.97	1.01	
			4				
11	+		0.4	0.56	0.87	1.01	
			4				
12	-		0.5	1.06			
			3				
13	-		0.6	0.99	1.10		
			0				
14	-		0.5	0.94			
			8				
15	-		0.5	0.99			
			1				
16	-		0.4	0.54	1.03		
			1				
17	-		0.4				
			4				
18	+		0.5	0.66	0.93	1.01	
			0				
19	-		0.3	0.83			
			5				
20	-		0.5	0.76	0.87	1.02	1.14
			2				
21	-		0.6	0.97	1.03		
			6				
22	-		0.4	0.81	0.98	1.07	
			7				
23	-		0.6	0.83	1.03		
			0				
24	+		0.4	0.61	0.96	1.05	
			5				
25	-		0.7	0.91			
			1				
26	-		0.5	0.76			
			3				
27	+		0.5	0.72	0.86	1.02	
			4				
28	-		0.5	0.94	1.09		
			2				
29	-		0.5	0.95			
			5				
30	-		0.5	0.85	1.05		
			3				
31	-		0.4	0.64	0.90	0.97	1.04
			6				

32	-	0.3 6	0.96	1.03	
33	+	0.5 3	0.69	0.86	1.03
34	-	0.4 0	0.54	0.71	
35	-	0.5 1	0.77	0.96	
36	-	0.5 4	0.89		
37	-	0.3 8	0.77		
38	-	0.1 6	0.41	0.76	0.94
39	-	0.2 4	0.74	1.09	
40	-	0.3 1	0.56	0.78	0.91
41	-	0.5 7	0.97		
42	-	0.1 3	0.40	0.67	1.00

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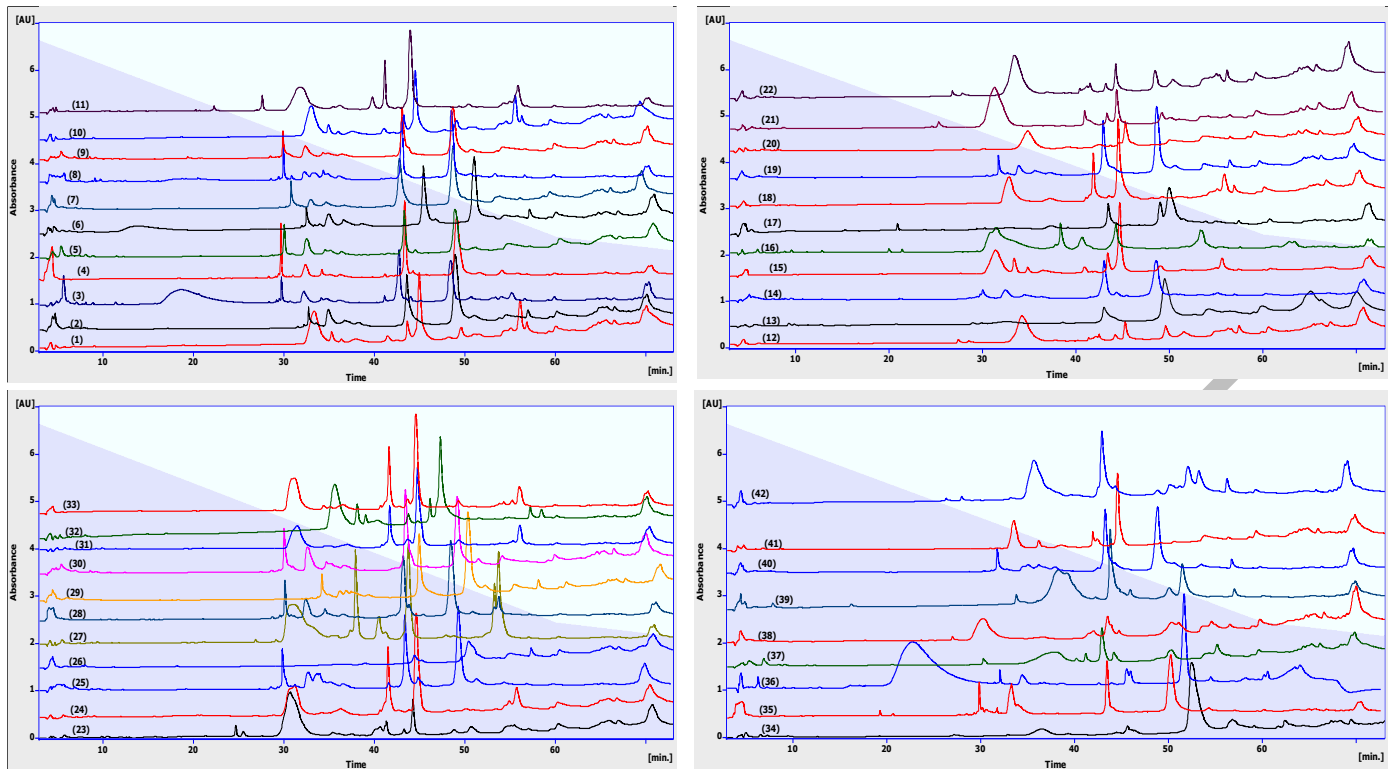
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Consequently, RP-HPLC is limited in this direct comparative diagnostics scope even when it's being used depending on the size exclusion property. In contrast to the electrophoretic techniques that have given the high diversity of the electrophoresed proteins, RP-HPLC doesn't provide such high diversity. However, in this study, the electrophoretic separation was provided interesting superiority compared with RP-HPLC. Concerning the study of variation, RP-HPLC may be failing to give the desired categorizing information about the actual heterogeneity of egg white varieties. In addition, as in some cases in Fig. 6, the HPLC peaks may be broad and overlapping due to the heterogeneity of the egg white samples. This might be attributed to the complexity of the adsorption mechanism of protein aggregates in hydrophobic interaction chromatography that was not fully understood (Mahn, 2012). Nevertheless, through utilizing RP-HPLC, a noticeable conservative nature of almost all studied proteins was observed. The predominant characteristic in egg white could be attributed to the presence of egg white with similar functions, as shown with the similar hydrophobicity peaks (Fig. 6).



449 Figure 6 Reverse phase high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) for egg white proteins.
 450 The number of each lane is indicated in each chromatogram.
 451

452 However, in addition to very long time run of all of these egg white samples because of the
 453 inability of HPLC to provide a simultaneous run of all samples, it has limited ability to verify
 454 samples on the basis of their hydrophobicity. Thus, the closely related nature of egg white proteins
 455 was elucidated through RP-HPLC. Nonetheless, some samples exerted unique peaks in certain
 456 portions of elution, such as sample No. 3 and No. 29. Moreover, RP-HPLC provides an initial clue
 457 through the similar peaks despite all the egg white high diversity obtained from other techniques,
 458 these differences were not attributed to their functions. Instead, other potential factors were
 459 involved in this interpretation, such as phenotypic classificational differences. In other words, RP-
 460 HPLC results provide an additional indicator for the possibility of using egg white as initial
 461 diagnostic tools on the basis of their bird phenotypic classification. Therefore, it might be possible
 462 to describe these variabilities as “species related” instead of being “function related” differences.
 463 In contrast to our study, other studies indicated that the differences in the phenotypically variable
 464 eggs are not related to chemical compositions; instead, the concentrations of its individual proteins
 465 are exposed to such variation among the varieties of eggs (Wang *et al.*, 2012). However, in this
 466 study, both egg whites related heterogeneity was obviously observed; the qualitative in which
 467 characteristic protein alterations were noticed, and quantitative in which discrete variations of egg
 468 white proteins were noticed too.

469

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, obvious differences between egg white proteins among the different bird types were noticed electrophoretically. In this study, the results indicated that both Native and SDS-PAGE method produced better resolution and also they have the potential to be developed as egg white diagnostic methods. Therefore, this may give a possibility to involve them to provide an initial diagnostic marker to differentiate among different species of birds through their egg white. Irrespective to some additional data that RP-HPLC has provided, it does not give a satisfactory reliability to diagnose these bands. The electrophoretic differences might pave the way for more rapid screening studies by further optimizing the several conditions in SDS-PAGE. This performance can be done by minimizing the gel-based efforts into the extremely acceptable level to provide a more reproducible diagnostic tool to differentiate among various types of egg white of birds.

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